VISIT…

Dover Coloring Book

Carousel Animals

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Christy Shaffer

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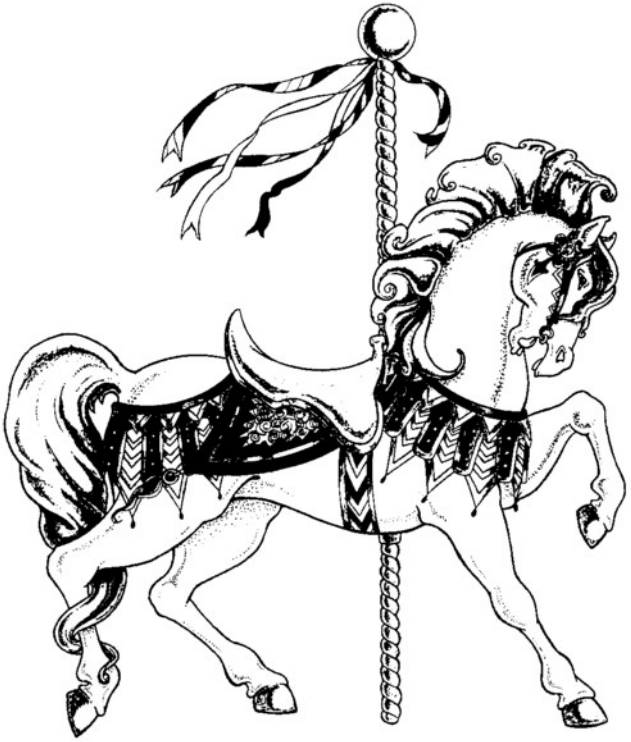

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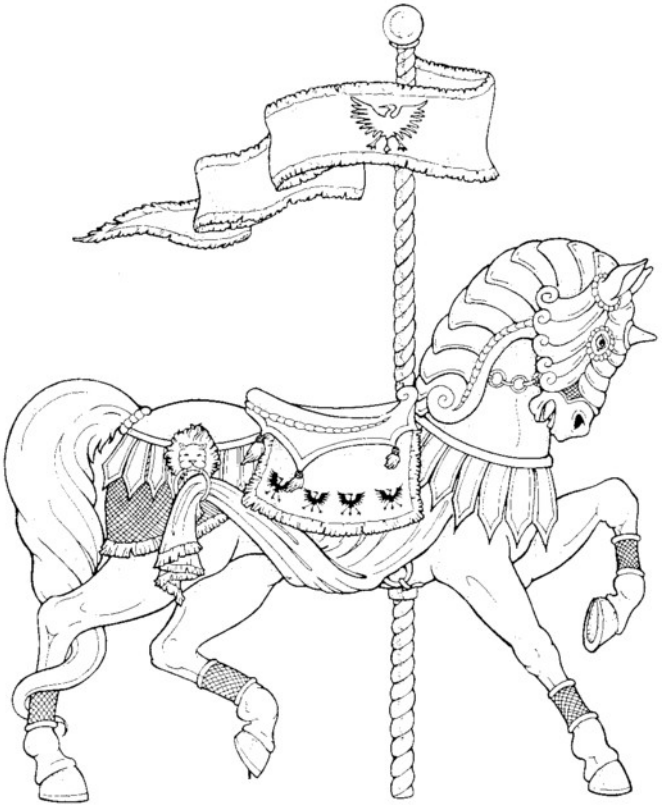
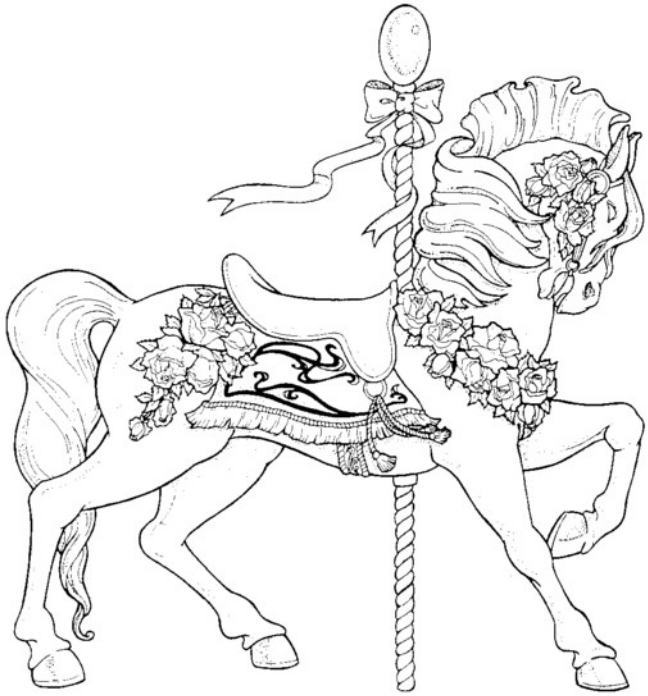
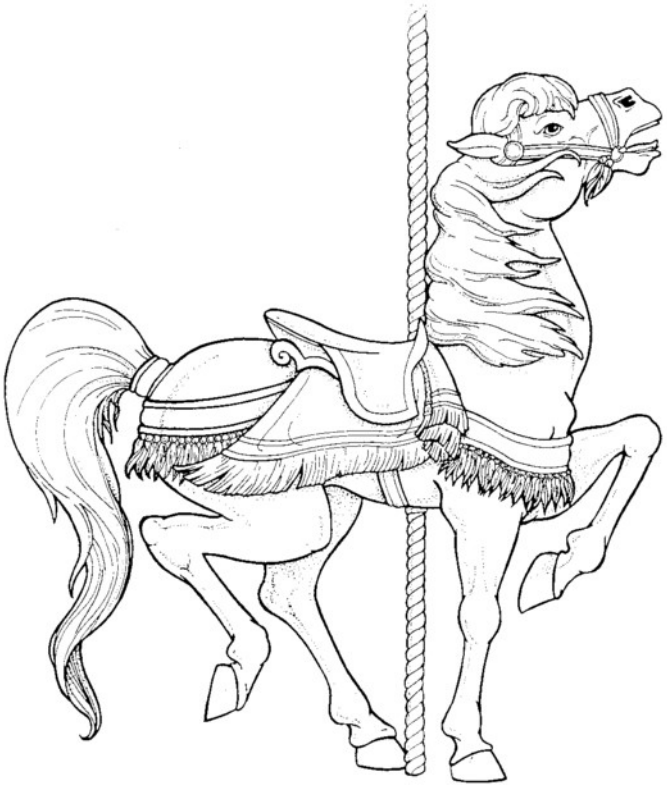


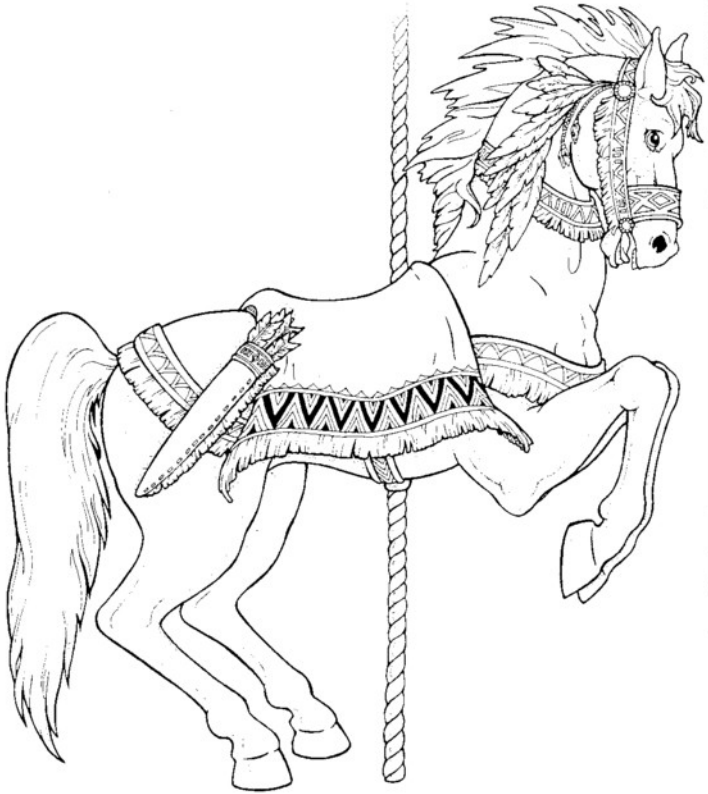
The lead horse, or king horse, was the most elaborately carved and decorated figure on the carousel. Horses decked in armor were most popular.



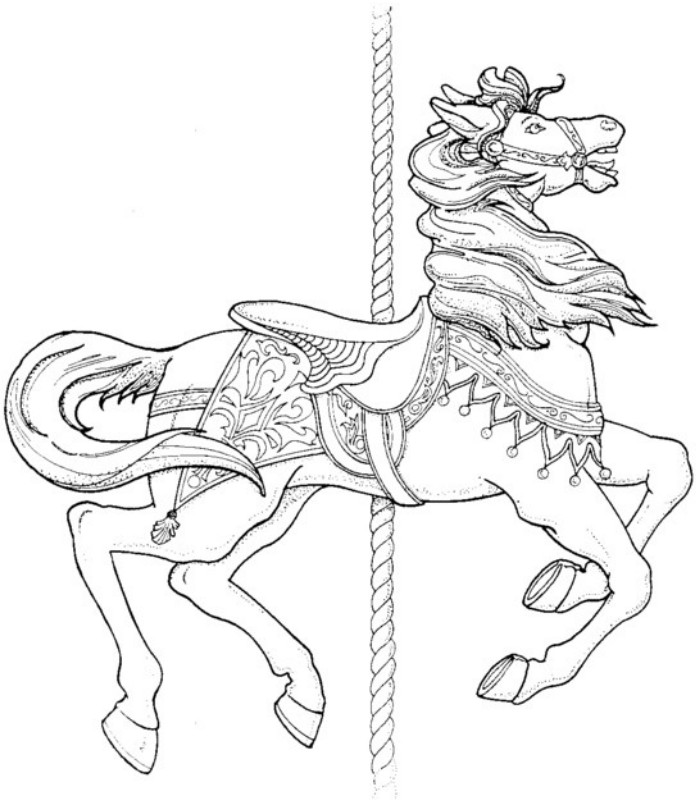
This lead horse wears ornamental trappings in the style of carver Marcus Illions. Eye-catching decorations were designed to entice customers.



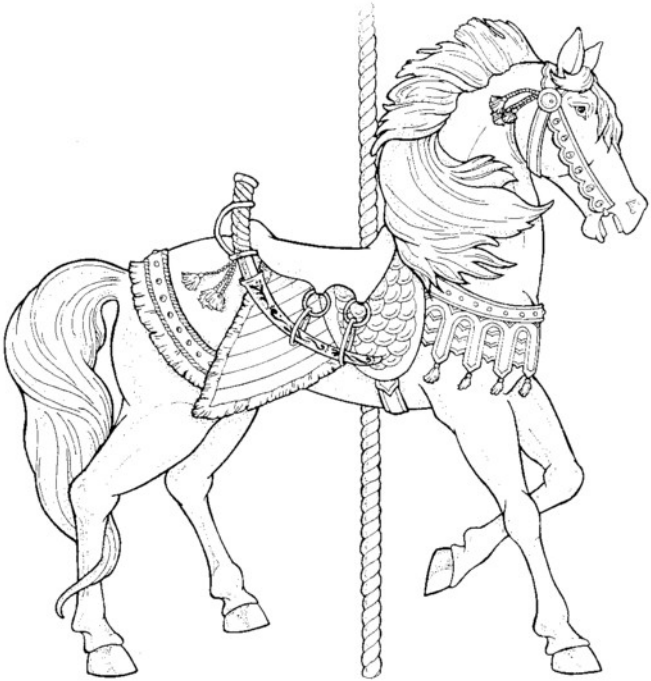
Carousel animals were created in three poses: standing, prancing, and jumping. Standing animals, placed on the outside row of the carousel, provided stability for riders questing for the brass ring which would earn them a free ride



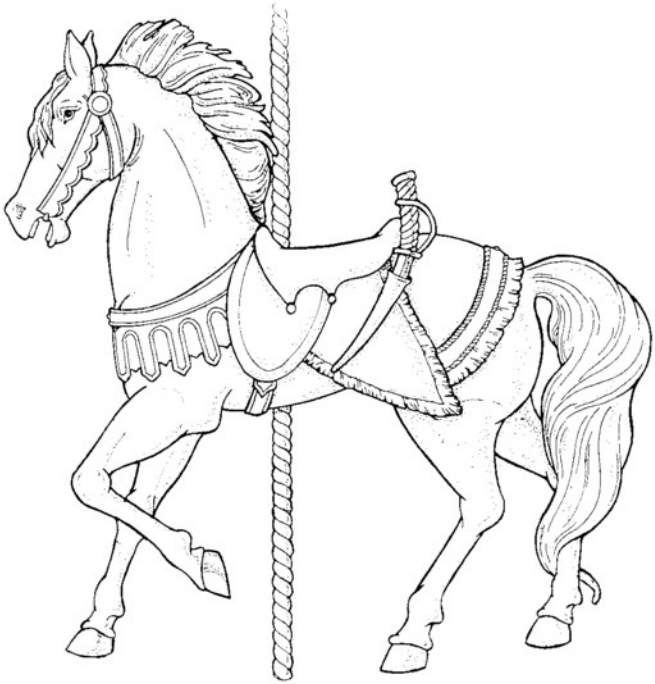
With its two back legs resting on the carousel platform, and its front legs rearing into the air, this prancing Indian pony would probably be placed in the second row.



This Art Nouveau-style jumper, with four feet off the ground, moves up and down on a pole as the carousel revolves. It is illustrated in the style of carver Daniel Muller.



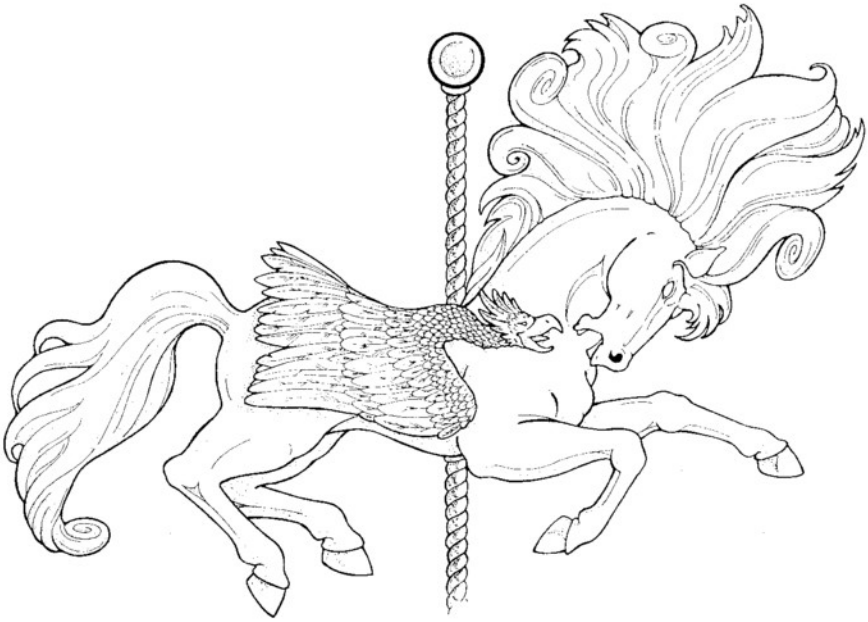
The viewing, or romance side of a carousel horse, was carved with fanciful trappings and flowing manes. It glittered with brightly colored paint and glass jewels.



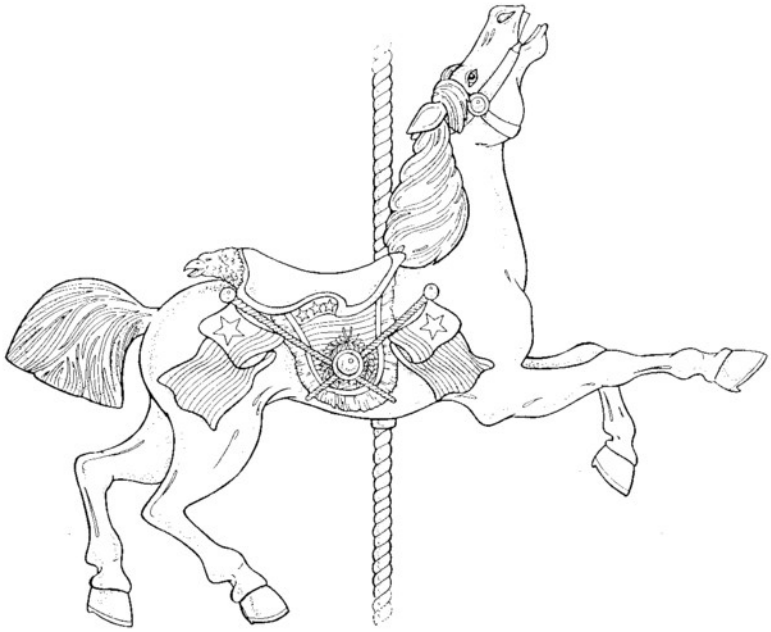
The carving of elaborate trappings was labor-intensive and expensive. The inner, or non-romance side of a horse, shown here, was sparely carved, since it was rarely seen.

The style of Stein and Goldstein was to create fierce-looking Trojan horses with cropped manes, roman noses, large buckles, and deeply carved ornamentation.

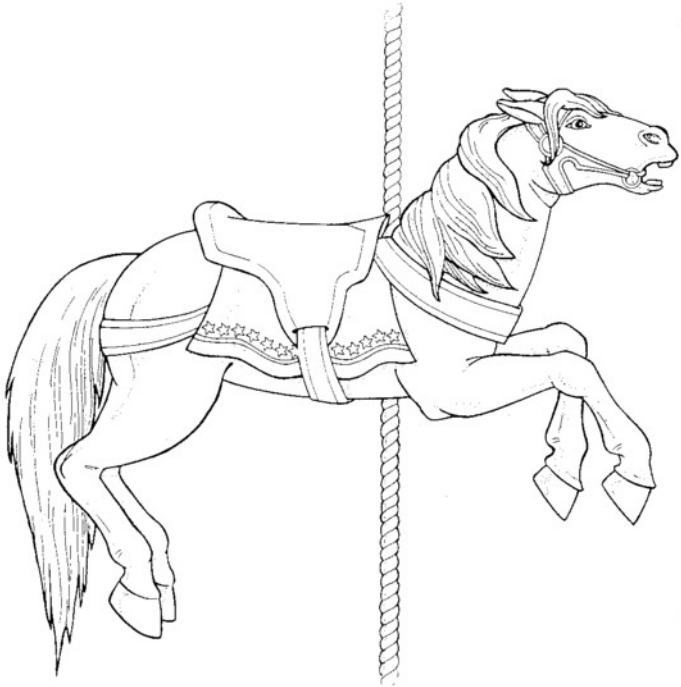
The head of this horse, drawn in the style of Coney Island carver Charles Carmel, shows two of his signature details: a flowing mane and an extended tongue.



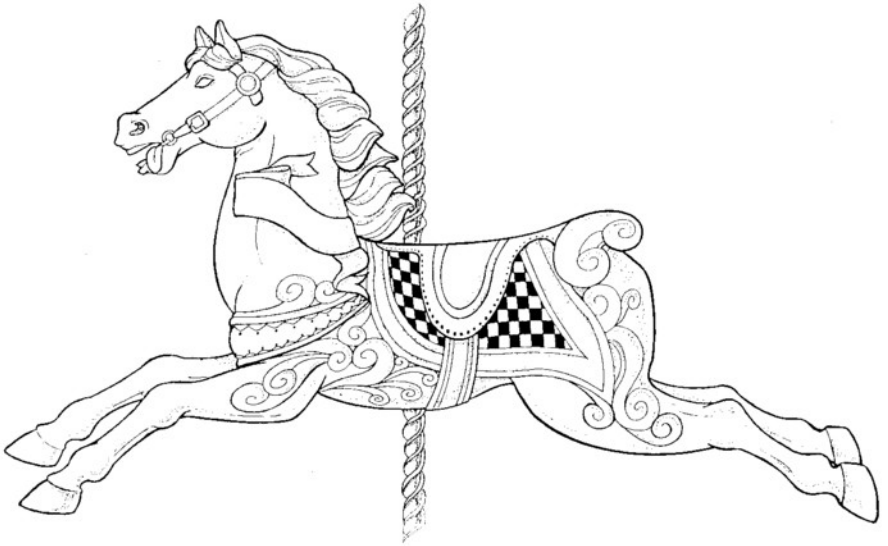
Mexican carver Luis Ortega was revered for his horses with flamboyantly carved and painted manes that resembled Aztec headdresses. The horses were often posed with their necks twisted back, which created a powerful, menacing appearance.



"Honesty, cleanliness, and morality," was the motto of Colonel C.W. Parker's carousel company. Nearly every one of Parker's carousels featured one patriotic pony to reflect his deep love of the United States.

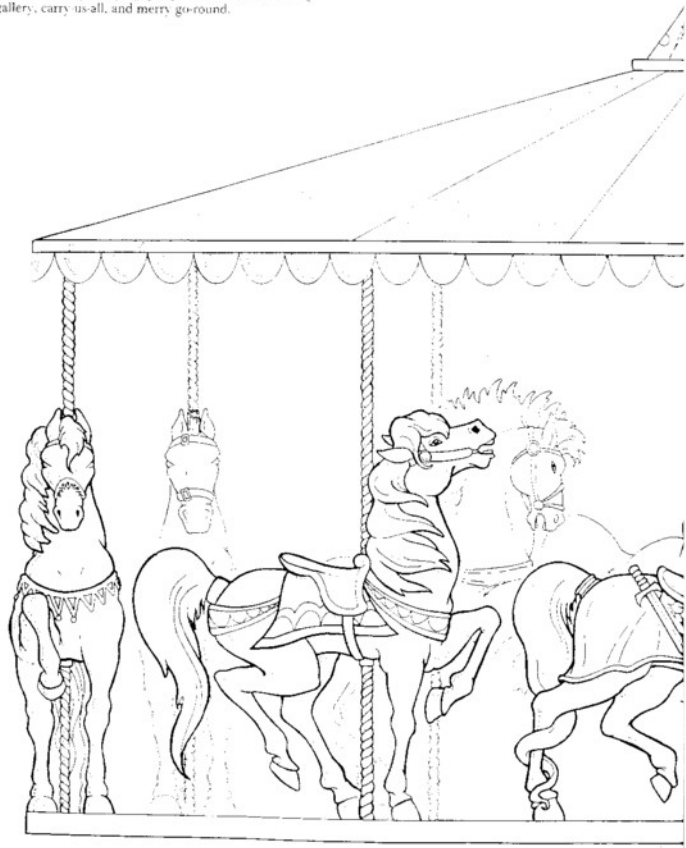


Herschell-Spillman's plainly carved ponies were used for one-night engagements at carnivals and country fairs. Their compact, unadorned bodies were relatively easy to pack, transport, and set up.

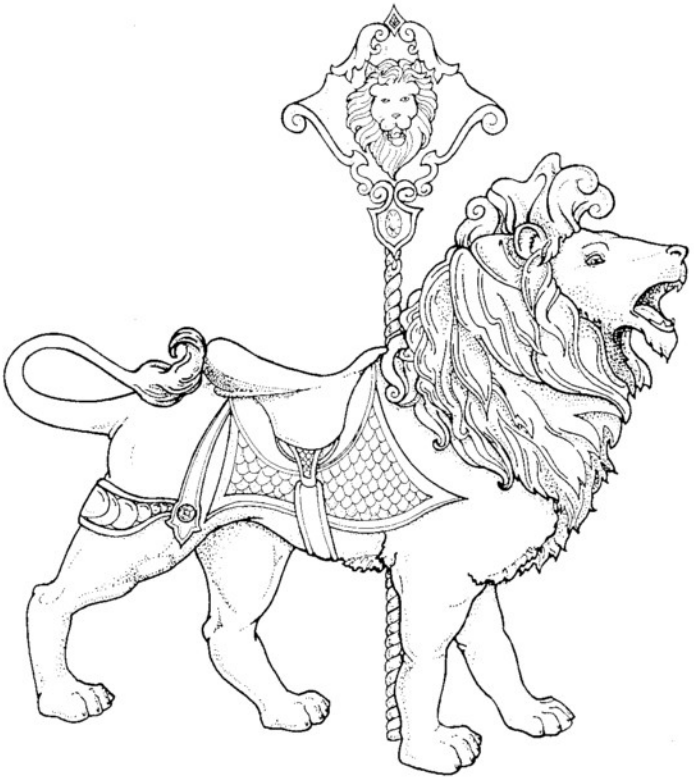


"Gallopers," or British carousel ponies, rotate counter clockwise so that the romance side is on the animals' left. These ponies generally feature banners on their necks which carry their names. The banner on the pony here is blank so that you may name it.

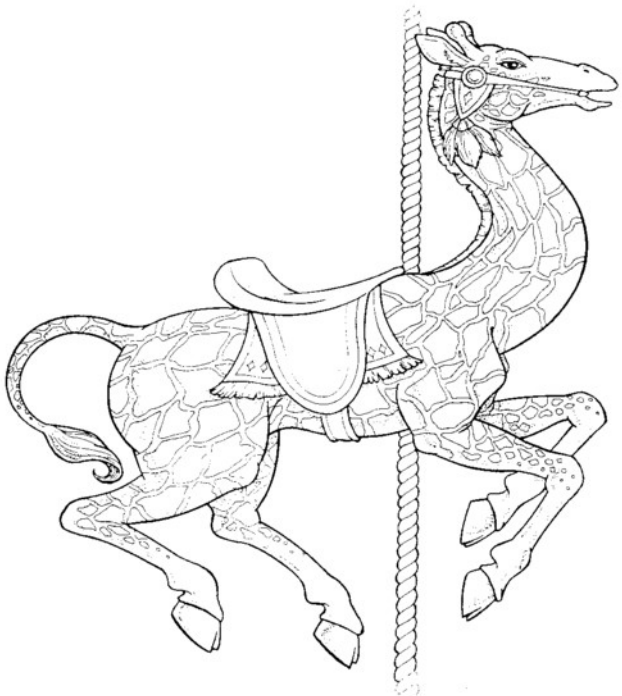
The popular amusement park ride that featured a revolving platform and carved wooden ponies, or other creatures, is known by many names: carousel, flying horses, whirligig, flying jinny, steam circus, riding gallery, carry us-all, and merry go-round.



Carvers could copy the prototype of a pony in less than 40 hours. So skilled were they at their craft, and so precise were the renderings, that replications appeared to be identical to the original. The most talented carver of a team created the animal's head, inspiring the term, "head man."

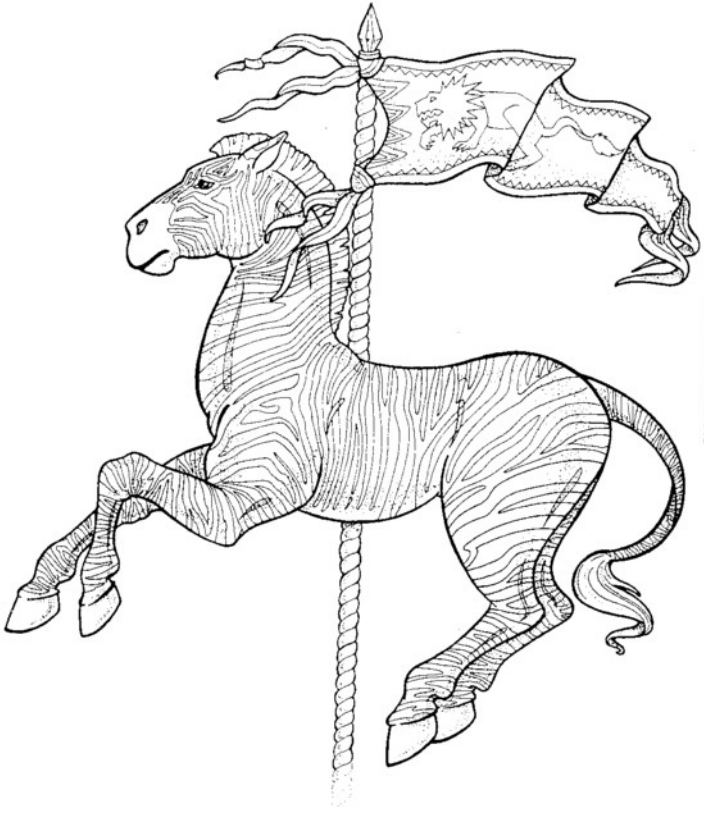


This magnificent Dentzel-style lion is characterized by powerful muscles, royal trappings, and a regal demeanor. Lions were among the first animals, other than horses, to be portrayed on carousels.

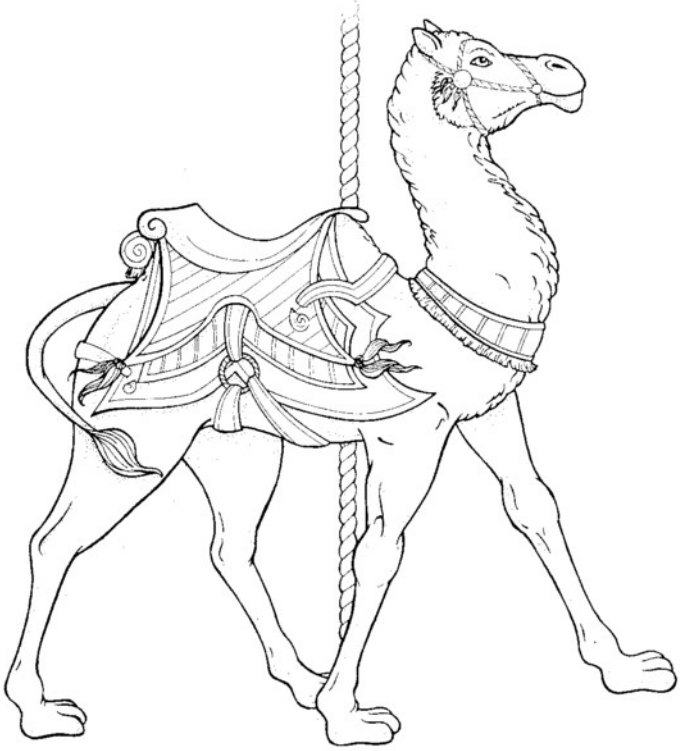


Charles I.D. Looff's exotic menagerie of carved beasts launched the popularity of carousel animals beyond horses. Perhaps it was the gentle, whimsical, expression of the creatures, as depicted in this giraffe, drawn in the Looff style, that made his animals so appealing.

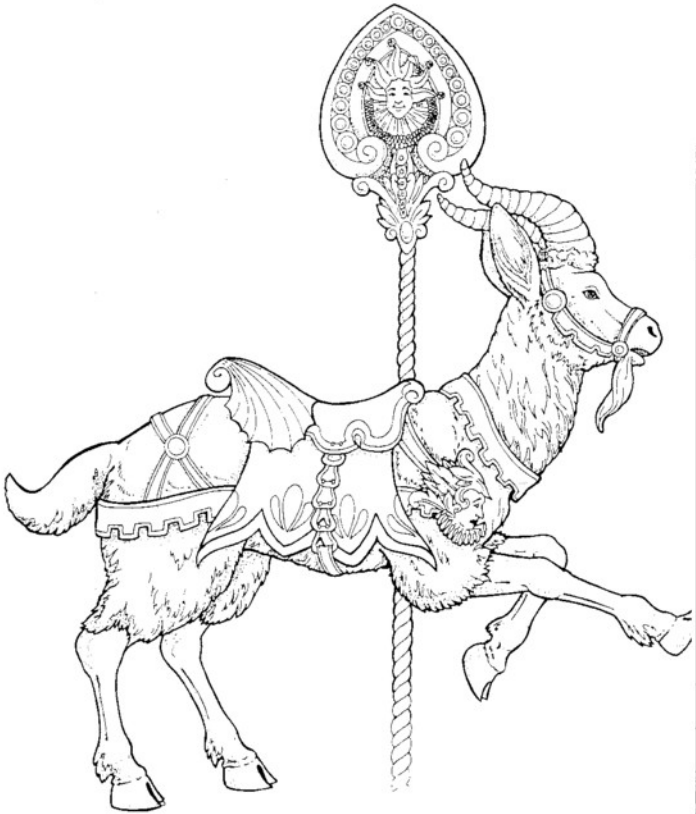
Looff carved fifty-four animals as a wedding gift for his daughter, Emma. These were among the last of Looff's works before he retired. The carousel beast shown here, depicted in Looff's style, portrays "Sneaky" the tiger in an unusual, prowling or stalking pose.



Designed without caparisons, or ornamental covering, this striking Herschell-Spillman-like zebra exudes the aura of unbridled freedom. To enhance the look of a wild, untamed animal, the finished piece (this one shown from the non-romance side) relies more on the painter's skill than on the carver's trappings.

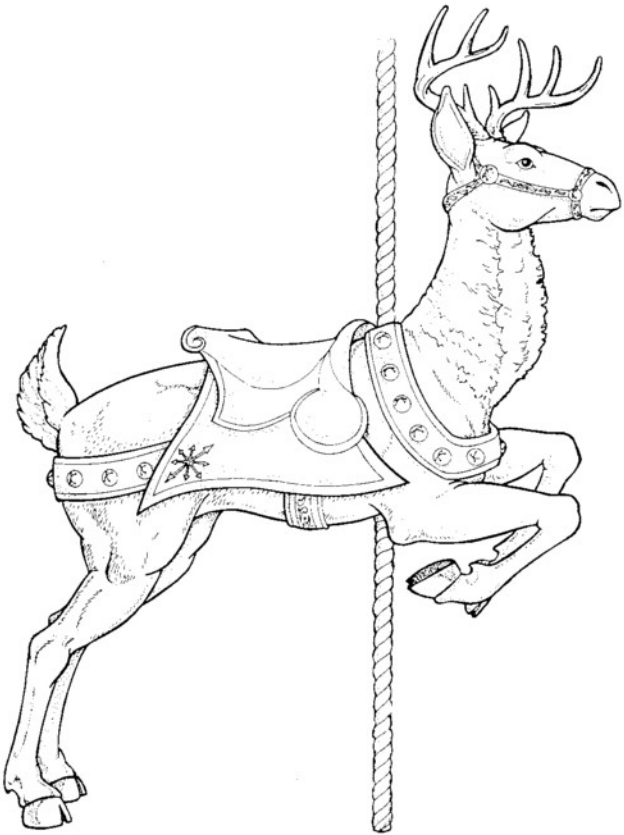


This drawing shows detailed carvings in the style of E. Joy Morris, including an intricately woven harness strap and a fancy saddle.

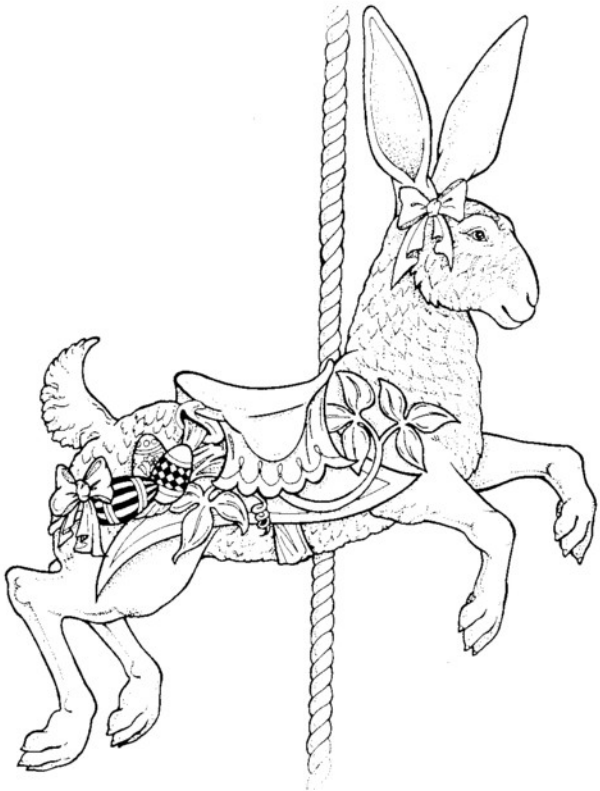


Many carousels were created around romantic fantasy themes such as the medieval era, or the Arabian nights.

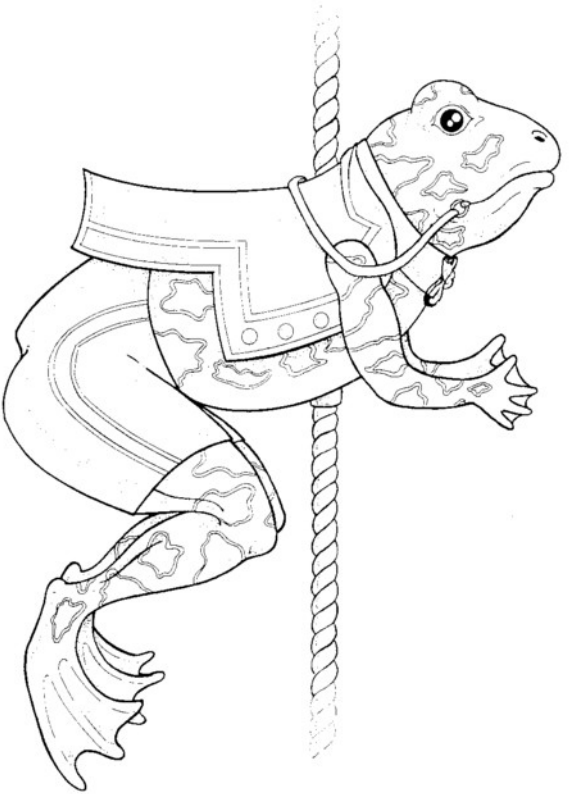
Other styles were festive and patriotic. This Dentzel-inspired goat reflects a circus motif.



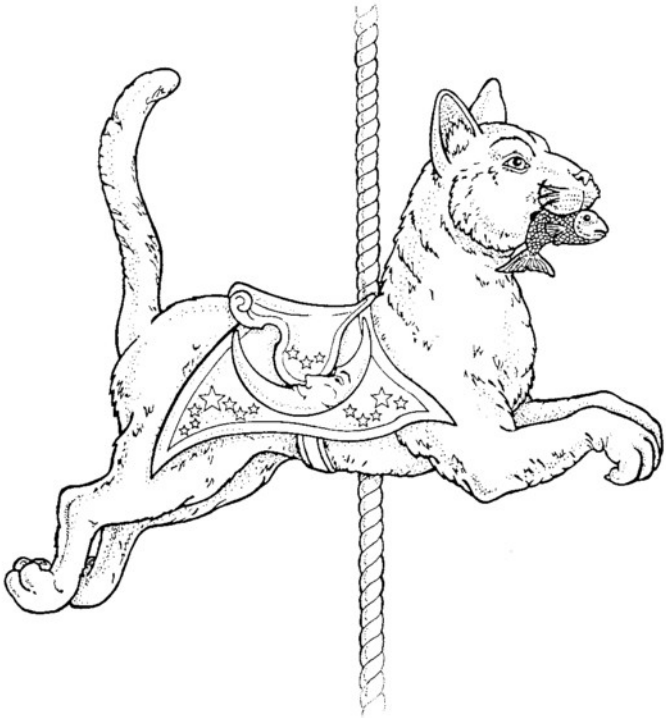
The carver Dentzel often embellished his prancing white-tailed deer with antlers shed by live deer. Since they were more durable than wood, and were readily available, authentic antlers provided a practical alternative to carving. Shown here is a deer drawn in the style of Dentzel.



Carousel carvers created a wide range of whimsical animals. Dentzel-type hares, or rabbits, were generally inner-row jumpers. These gentle giants were often favored by young riders.

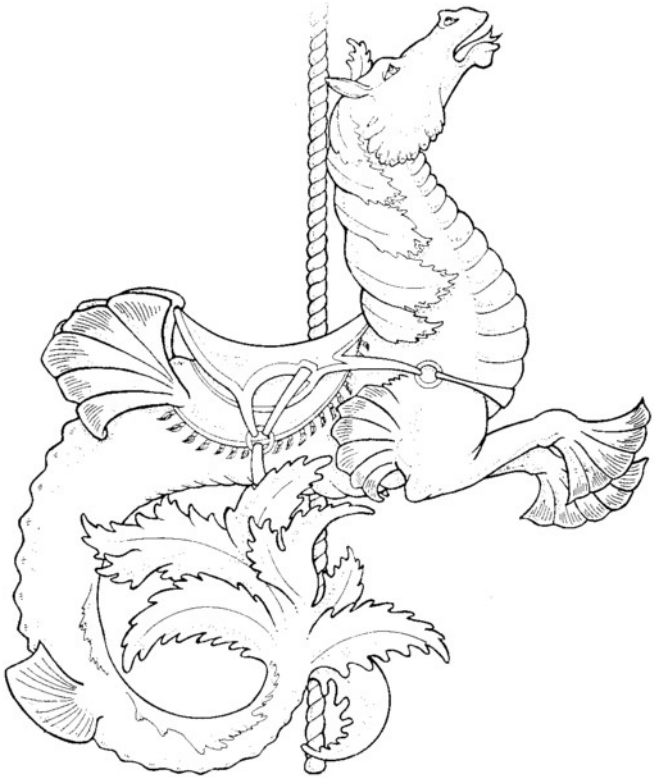


The only carousel animals known to wear clothing were frogs created by the Herschell-Spillman Company. These outfits may have been inspired by the classic children's book, *Wind in the Willows*. The frog depicted here is drawn in the Herschell-Spillman style.

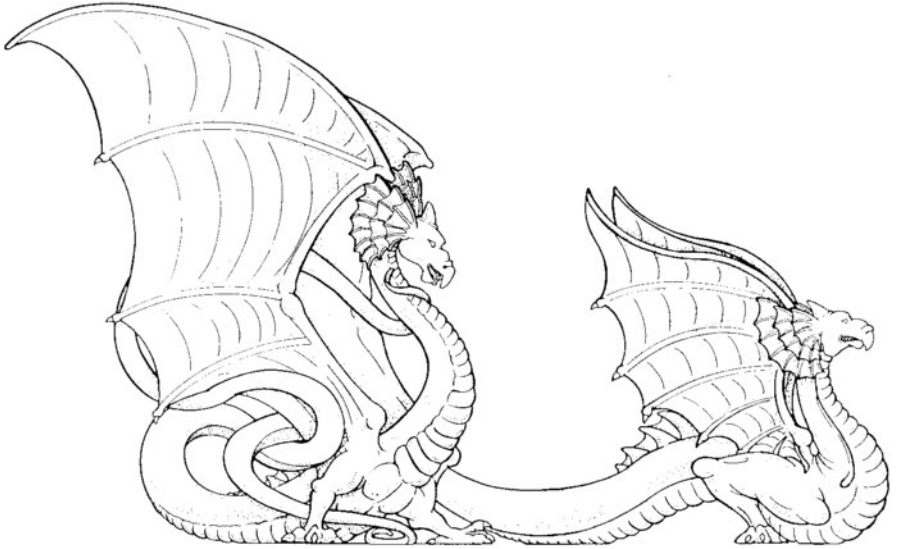


Among the most popular of non-equine carousel creatures was the cat. This Dentzel inspired feline has a fish in its mouth. Additional prey for carousel cats included crabs and ducks.

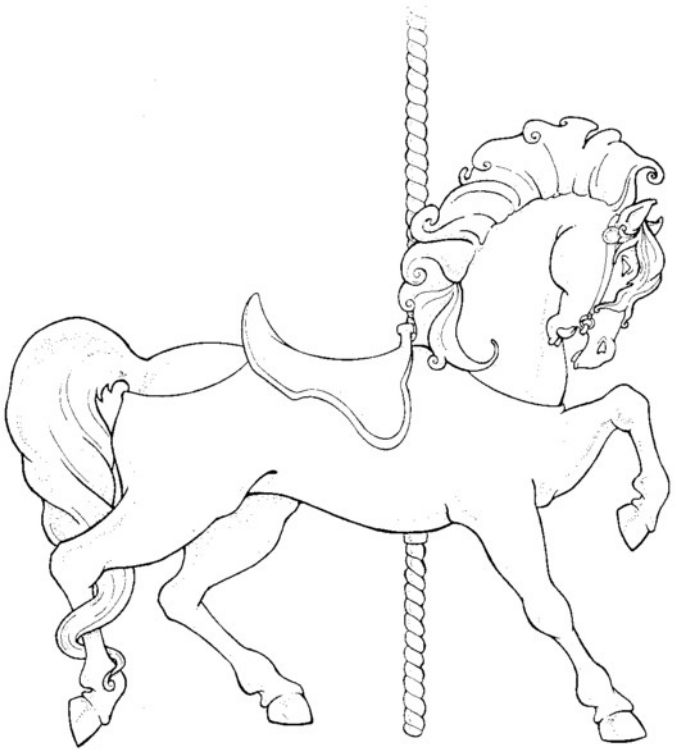
The sea horses of Neptune, god of the sea, had the heads and forequarters of horses, combined with the tails of dolphins. They were known for pulling Neptune's underwater chariot.



Possibly influenced by tales of the Loch Ness monster, E. Joy Morris created unusual carousel sea creatures much like the one shown in this drawing. Little is known of Morris, an eccentric carver, who created less than two dozen carousels.



Carousel chariots, or benches, are often adorned with beautifully carved sideboards. The one shown here is decorated with dragons. Because they are low to the carousel floor, benches are favored by people too young or too old to climb atop a tall, wooden animal.



Embellish this pony with your own whimsical trappings to create a unique carousel animal.